



# Wilson votes to honor America's veterans

— *The Times Leader*, 06/19/2007



**“Our veterans fought hard for this country and I’m proud to fight hard for them in Washington.”**  
– Congressman Charlie Wilson

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***I am happy to report*** that the House of Representatives passed the largest single funding increase in the Veterans Administration’s 77-year history. I was proud to vote for the \$65 billion spending bill that provides an historic new commitment of resources to America’s veterans. The Veterans Health Administration estimates it will treat more than 5.8 million patients in 2008 including more than 263,345 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. I’m also supporting the Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2007 that would authorize the VA to pay travel expenses for veterans receiving treatment at VA facilities.

*Charlie A. Wilson*



# Congressman Charlie Wilson on Veterans

*I am proud to have voted for HR 2672, the largest single increase in funding to our Veterans Administration in history.*



*Congressman Wilson meets with Ohio veterans to discuss veterans' issues in his Washington, DC Office — March 7, 2007*

## **HR 2672 - Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act**

- The House of Representatives has passed HR 2672, the largest single increase in the 77-year history of the Veterans Administration.
- I was proud to vote for the \$65 billion spending bill that protects military personnel and their families from the health care fee increases the President has proposed. In fact, it provides \$3.8 billion more than the President requested.
- The Veterans Health Administration estimates it will treat more than 5.8 million patients in 2008 including more than 263,345 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, 54,000 more than fiscal year 2007.

### **The legislation includes:**

- \$600 million for a new mental health initiative and for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder.
- \$130 million for homeless veterans.
- \$4.1 billion for medical facilities.
- \$480 million in funding for medical and prosthetic research.
- \$165 million for the construction and modification of extended care facilities for veterans.

### **I am also proud to have cosponsored HR 2005, the Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2007.**

For veterans receiving treatment at VA facilities, this bill would authorize the VA to pay travel expenses at the level paid to federal employees. Currently that rate is 48.5 cents per mile. This bill would also establish Centers for Excellence for rural health research in order to directly improve the quality of care for our veterans who live in rural areas like ours.

### **In addition, I cosponsored HR 579, the Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act.**

If passed, this bill would prohibit increases in premiums and deductibles under TRICARE and prohibit charges for DOD inpatient care from exceeding \$535 per day. This bill is important because it would lock in premiums and deductibles to ensure that our veterans get good quality care at prices they can afford.



*If you need help with your Veterans benefits, please call any of our offices or 1-888-706-1833 and you will be referred to our Veterans Issues Specialist.*

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[www.charliewilson.house.gov](http://www.charliewilson.house.gov)



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